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Oct. 2, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

**ART IMITATES LIFE IN EXHIBIT
BY UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON VISITING ARTISTS, BROTHERS**

DAYTON, Ohio — For Kyle and Kelly Phelps, twins and artists raised in a working-class family of 10 in Indiana, art imitates life — at least in one particular collection of their work currently on display at the University of Dayton Rike Center gallery.

The exhibit, "Race, Class and Blue Collar," will be on display through Nov. 1. Hours at the gallery, located in the Rike Center for Fine Arts, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays.

The artists will present a slide show on the exhibit at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, in Rike Center room 206. Admission is free to the exhibit and slide show. For information, call (937) 229-3237.

The collection comprises nearly 30 three-dimensional sculptures in mixed media and focuses on race, class and social differences in the United States, said Kelly, who serves with Kyle as visiting art instructors at UD. "Our work is about the struggle. It's about people working 20 years and then getting laid off.

"There is an absence of art relating to the working class," Kelly added. "The work we do is for the common man, not elitist art for the rich. The working class is what makes up America."

Raising their eight children in Newcastle, Ind., the twins' father worked in factories and their mother as an upholsterer. After high school graduation, the twins worked for a summer with their father and witnessed firsthand the adversity and issues faced by the working class.

Those experiences serve as the basis for this exhibit, they said. In keeping with the theme, Kyle and Kelly incorporated found factory objects such as boots, tools, oil, sludge and even clothing remnants taken from the backs of coworkers along with more traditional sculpture materials such as Fiberglas, clay and sheet metal to create the pieces on display.

"The theme is universal," Kelly said. "It speaks of labor, factories and of the common man."

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For media interviews, call **Kyle and Kelly Phelps** at (937) 229-3245.

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